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ADVANCING THE BUSINESS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GLOBALLY



Patricia Bunye and the USPTO Under Secretary and Director Michelle K. Lee at the AIPLA meeting.



François Painchaud (left), Eduardo Souza and Chris Katopis at the Welcome Reception in Vancouver during the LES (USA & Canada) Annual Meeting.



LES International leaders during the LES (USA & Canada) 2016 Annual Meeting in Vancouver, B.C.

## Strengthening LESI's Relationships With Other Organizations

By Patricia A.O. Bunye, President, LES International



It has been a hectic third quarter of the year filled with visits to various national societies and initiatives to strengthen LESI's relationships with other organizations.

On August 30, I joined the members of LES South Africa for its Annual General Meeting and Mini Seminar in Pretoria, which was attended by approximately 40 participants. LESI Past President Alan Lewis was one of the notable attendees. The Mini-Seminar was co-hosted by the National Intellectual Property Management Office, which is an agency under the Department of Trade & Industry of the Republic of South Africa.

After the LES South Africa event, I took the opportunity to also attend INTA's "Building Africa with Brands Conference" (September 1-2) in Cape Town, its first ever event in Africa. There, I had the chance to briefly meet with outgoing INTA President Ronald van Tuijl. I expressed LESI's interest in working with INTA on a joint program on trademarks.

This was followed by a trip to Helsinki for LES Scandinavia's Annual Conference September 4-6, which was attended by approximately 100 participants. LESI Past President Jonas Gullikson was one of the notable attendees. A number of international speakers participated, including Russell Levine and Pam Cox, whose session on mock mediation of a patent license dispute was very well received.

In October, I represented LESI at the Asian Patent Attorneys Association (APAA) 66th Council Meeting in Nusa Dua, Bali. Every year, APAA hosts a "Presidential Lunch" attended by the heads of different international IP organizations and agencies. I had attended this lunch in previous years as the represen-

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APAA President Patrick Y. Kim hosted a lunch for the Presidents and representatives of AIPPI, AIPA, AIPLA, LESI, ECTA, IBA, ABA, GACG, IP Global Network and WIPO. "Happy to meet my counterparts," notes Patricia Bunye.

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### Call For Content

We request contributions from all societies and individuals about important events, changes in the law in your country or region, conferences, annual meetings, board changes, and the like from your society. You can submit articles or announcements to the editor or use the form on the website at the following address: [www.lesi.org/les-societies/les-global-news/submission-form](http://www.lesi.org/les-societies/les-global-news/submission-form).

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tative of LESI Past Presidents Chikao Fukuda and Jim Sobieraj during their respective terms. This year, I was happy to meet my counterparts in AIPPI, AIPA, AIPLA, LESI, ECTA, IBA, ABA, GACG, IP Global Network and WIPO to exchange notes on how our respective organizations may work together.



Patricia Bunye and LESI leaders meet with the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA) Board at its annual meeting in Washington, D.C. (October 2016).

On October 12-13, I was happy to attend the LES Pan European Meeting in London. Congratulations are in order for LES Britain and Ireland which organized the conference in barely four months. Notwithstanding the severe time constraints, they presented a solid program participated in by international speakers, including from Russia, Turkey and Azerbaijan. A meeting with the European National Presidents was also held in London to discuss, among others, the LESI value proposition and proposed Strategic Plan.

At the LES (USA & Canada) Annual Conference in Vancouver (October 23-26), the LESI Board Members who were present met with the National Presidents and their representatives who were likewise attending. A separate meeting was held with the new LES (USA & Canada) President Brian O'Shaughnessy and immediate Past-President Jeff Whittle. We discussed, among others, the possibility of designing a standard or minimum education course that could be uniformly offered, as well as creating templates, checklists and FAQs on licensing.

Immediately after the LES (USA & Canada) Annual Meeting in Vancouver, I proceeded to Washington, DC to attend the AIPLA Annual Conference. There, a small group of LESI representatives met with the leadership of AIPLA, led by outgoing President Denise DeFranco and incoming President Mark L. Whitaker to discuss possible areas of collaboration, including licensing standards, best practices and educational initiatives. At AIPLA, we also had an informal meeting with Albert Keyack, the EPO's attaché to the United States and I had a brief meeting with USPTO Director Michelle Lee to give her updates on LESI's activities.

Though the last three months have been quite hectic, I was grateful to have valuable personal interactions with members of our national societies throughout the world to learn how LESI can better deliver value to them. As one of the pillars of the "4Cs" that mark my term is "CONNECTIONS," I was elated to have face-to-face conversations with many members. Notwithstanding our efforts to improve the ways we communicate within LESI, including through a newsletter that may be customized by our national societies for their members (which we will unveil very soon), nothing can take the place of a personal connection! ■



Attending the AIPLA meeting in Washington from left: Chris Katopis (LESI Executive Administrator), Hector Chagoya (LES Mexico), Albert Keyack, the new liaison from the European Patent Office, Patricia Bunye (LESI President), Rodolfo Martinez (LES Brasil), and John Paul (LESI Board VP).